

13 FEB 2002

TES

S	: <u>Herculaneum</u>
ID#	<u>MOB006266273</u>
Break:	<u>1.0</u>
Other:	<u>2-13-02</u>

Tom Kruzen, Field Representative  
Missouri Coalition of the Environment  
HC67, Box 70-C  
Mt. View, MO 65548

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SUPERFUND RECORDS

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Dear Mr. Kruzen:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning contamination in Herculaneum, Missouri. Your letter points out a number of health concerns that residents have mentioned to you. Your letter concludes with a request that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) use its power to move people out of Herculaneum.

We at EPA also have concerns regarding the risks posed by contamination present in Herculaneum. While we do not have specific information to address the illnesses mentioned in your letter, exposure of small children to lead continues to be our highest priority. Although small children are our highest priority, our efforts to reduce exposure are not limited only to residents with small children. We believe that the required actions will benefit all residents of Herculaneum.

As you are aware, EPA along with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), the Missouri Department of Health (MDOH), and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) have been working for the last several months to require Doe Run to address lead contamination being emitted from the plant as well as establishing a program to remove contaminated soils, and clean the interior of homes and schools. On December 21, 2001, an Order was signed with Doe Run requiring an expedited soil cleanup program along with an interior dust cleaning program. In addition, we have developed a program to offer residents with small children the opportunity to be temporarily relocated. Such a temporary relocation is being offered until such time that the actions to address the exposure of young children to contaminated soil and indoor dust are completed.

We will continue to work with MDNR, MDOH, and ATSDR to determine the risks posed by lead in the community and if further actions are necessary to protect the residents of Herculaneum. We have been considering and will continue to consider all the options available to address lead contamination, including those suggested in your letter. We believe that the required cleanup activities are the most expedient way to address the risks posed by exposure to lead. Similar cleanups conducted at thousands of residential properties at other sites have been very successful at reducing lead exposure. In addition, the offer of temporary relocation of families with small children will provide an added measure of protection for the most sensitive

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residents of Herculaneum until the contaminated soil and indoor dust cleanup activities are completed.

If you have any further questions, please contact Tony Petruska at 913-551-7637.

Sincerely,

James B. Gulliford  
Regional Administrator

ARTD: TPetruska: cschmaltz: 1-22-02: Disk #2: KRUZEN R7-0200037 Due 1/23/02